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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2016/20, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 71/104, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory, so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In paragraph 21 of the resolution, the Assembly commended the Council for its debate and its resolution on the question and requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

3. The following 17 Territories are under the purview of the Special Committee: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[1] French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara. Information submitted in response to a request to the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations to provide an account of their activities in relation to those Territories is set out below.

II. Support provided to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. Responses were received from 13 United Nations entities and 1 international organization. Of these 13 entities, the following 4 indicated that they were not able to provide or did not have any information to submit on the issue: the World Food Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Tourism Organization and the World Trade Organization. According to the information received, during the period under review, the following nine organizations of the United Nations system continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee. Information submitted by one international organization is also set out below.

A. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

5. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) provides the information presented below in the context of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 71/103, entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories".

[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

6. The Commission took note of international political developments with a potential impact on the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean. Among those were the referendum vote of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to withdraw from the European Union, held on 23 June 2016, and the expansion of the practice of de-risking, in which international commercial banks withdraw correspondent banking relationships with Territories that are considered high risk.

7. Six of the seven Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean are also classified as United Kingdom Overseas Territories. Prior to the referendum vote, the Territories derived special benefit from the European Union within the context of the Overseas Countries and Territories. The nature of that relationship, as set out in articles 198 to 203 of Part IV of the Lisbon Treaty, focused on the promotion of economic and social development; the establishment of close economic relations; the importance of non-discrimination in economic matters; and the right to free movement of workers from the Overseas Countries and Territories.[2] Other benefits included access to the European Development Fund, the European Investment Bank and the general budget of the European Union for various developmental sectors.

8. In this regard, recognizing that the Territories are especially vulnerable to natural disasters and external shocks, the European Union, through the European Development Fund, provided significant economic benefit to several Caribbean Territories in the aftermath of natural disasters. For example, under the 9th, 10th, and 11th tranches of the Fund, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands each received €7 million, €34.06 million, and €6.25 million, respectively, for post-disaster reconstruction, and disaster risk mitigation.[3] Moreover, the European Union also allocated substantial funding to support the overseas countries and territories in climate change mitigation, strengthening environmental conservation and the preservation of their rich biodiversity, reducing their dependence on fossil fuels and reducing their vulnerability to natural disasters.

9. Similarly, on the issue of de-risking, the financial services systems within many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories have begun to experience the consequences of this crisis. Money transfer services in the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands have been significantly affected, with a major proprietor closing its operations in the Cayman Islands in July 2015, according to the Caribbean Development Bank. Moreover, given the increased regulation and scrutiny being applied to correspondent banking relationships, large international banks are ceasing to provide some types of banking services, thus increasing the cost of doing business in these Territories.

10. Altogether, according to ECLAC, given that the financial sector in some Territories is the largest contributor to gross domestic product, and thus is central to their economic growth and development, there is the risk that the withdrawal of correspondent banking relationships will destabilize the economic and social fabric of these societies.

Activities with Non-Self-Governing Territories

11. During the period 2015-2016, the Commission supported the development of the Territories in several ways. First, the Cayman Islands was a beneficiary in the recently completed energy project of the German Federal Enterprise for

[2] Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, *Official Journal of the European Union*, 2012, as cited in Peter Clegg, "The United Kingdom Overseas Territories and the European Union: benefits and prospects", Part I, June 2016, para. 7.

[3] Matthew C Benwell and Alasdair Pinkerton, "Brexit and the British Overseas Territories", *The RUSI Journal*, vol. 161, No. 4, 2016.

International Cooperation (October 2014-September 2016), which focused on promoting energy efficiency and strengthening financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Caribbean. Two visits were made to the Territory to present the project proposal, and a delegate participated in the regional Energy Dialogue and Training Workshop. Subsequently, on 26 and 27 September 2016, the project supported the Government of the Cayman Islands by fielding a technical mission to review the draft national energy policy.

12. Second, several Territories benefited from capacity-building and sensitization initiatives conducted by the Commission. In 2015, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat participated in the symposium on sustainable development goals for the Caribbean within the post-2015 development agenda (24 and 25 June). In 2016, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands participated in the Caribbean Development Round Table, which considered the debt overhang, and strategies for balancing adjustment with sustainable development (21 April). Also in 2016, the Cayman Islands benefited from training on the use of retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer for online dissemination of census data (4-29 April).

13. Third, some Territories participated in several intergovernmental meetings, including the seventeenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held on 26 June 2015 (Cayman Islands and Montserrat), and the twenty-sixth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, held on 22 April 2016 (British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands).

14. Finally, in terms of responding to global mandates, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands received support from the Commission in 2015, to prepare their national reviews on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

15. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides support for sustainable development policies and practices in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food security. FAO assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories is facilitated by its field offices, including the Subregional Office for the Caribbean, located in Barbados, and the Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, located in Samoa.

Subregional Office in Barbados

16. The Subregional Office in Barbados hosts the secretariat of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission. This regional fishery body, established in 1973, with 34 member States, also includes the United Kingdom among its members. The Non-Self-Governing Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands participate at various levels in the technical and scientific advisory activities of the Commission. The level of their participation in its working groups on Queen Conch, spiny lobster, spawning aggregations and recreational fisheries is particularly high. As such, those Territories benefit from capacity-building, awareness-raising, technical assistance and information dissemination by FAO, using resources mobilized by the secretariat of the Commission from the members and donors.

17. Moreover, in recent years, the Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda and Montserrat have represented formally the United Kingdom at the sessions of the Commission. At these sessions, recommendations on regional fisheries management and

conservation are reviewed and adopted for voluntary implementation by the member States, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Wider Caribbean Region/Western Central Atlantic. A listing of important activities related to regional fisheries and aquaculture in which the United Kingdom Territories in the Caribbean were participating in 2015 and 2016 is set out below.

18. With respect to the work of FAO in the area of plant and animal production and health, representatives from the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands participate in the Plant Health Directors' Forum and in the Caribbean Animal Health Network and benefit from the various training activities, information-sharing and so on, as part of the two networks.

19. In 2016, the Caribbean Week of Agriculture, the region's premiere agricultural event, was held in the Cayman Islands from 22 to 28 October. FAO sponsored several seminars and participated in other activities. The key activities were the following:

- A seminar on linkages between trade and transport within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- A seminar on governance and public policy
- A seminar on the development of agribusiness in the Caribbean
- A booth at the trade show and exhibition
- Participation in a ministerial caucus and lunch.

Subregional Office in Samoa

FAO and Tokelau

20. Tokelau joined FAO as an associate member in 2011 and has received technical assistance from FAO, along with other members of FAO in the Pacific. FAO assistance focuses on the sustainable management of natural resources and food security. Ongoing technical assistance focuses on strategies and capacity-building to address climate change impacts on jurisdictional claims; the implementation of global and regional oceanic fisheries conventions and related instruments; the development of land-use plans; and coastal replanting.

Economic and social issues

21. According to FAO, Tokelau has the smallest economy in the world. The principal sources of revenue are sales of copra, postage stamps, souvenir coins and handicrafts, and remittances from relatives in New Zealand. Tokelau's small size (three small coral atolls with a combined land area of 12 km2), isolation and lack of resources greatly restrain economic development and confine agriculture to the subsistence level. The people rely heavily on aid from New Zealand to maintain public services. Support from New Zealand amounts to 80 per cent of Tokelau's recurrent government budget. An international trust fund was established in 2004 to provide Tokelau with an independent source of revenue.

22. To strengthen the economy of Tokelau and promote the effective management of highly migratory tuna and associated species that pass through the waters of Tokelau and neighbouring countries/Territories, and mindful of the dependence of Tokelau and other small island developing States and Territories of the Western and Central Pacific upon the rational development and utilization of the living marine resources and the continued abundance of these resources, Tokelau and other like-

minded States in the region, including the members of the Forum Fisheries Agency, became signatories to the Tokelau Arrangement in 2014.[4]

23. The final text of the Tokelau Arrangement was agreed at the 91st meeting of the Forum Fisheries Committee, on 31 October 2014. Signatories at the time of writing were: Australia, the Cook Islands, Niue, New Zealand, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The objective of the Arrangement is to promote the optimal utilization, conservation and management of stocks within the scope of the Arrangement, through the development of management approaches for:

(a) Maximizing economic returns, employment generation and export earnings from the sustainable harvesting of these resources;

(b) Supporting the development of domestic and locally based fishing industries;

(c) Securing an equitable share of fishing opportunities and equitable participation in fisheries for these resources for the participants;

(d) Increasing control of the fishery for the participants;

(e) Enhancing data collection on and monitoring of the fishery;

(f) Promoting effective and efficient administration, management and compliance;

(g) Encouraging collaboration between the participants.

24. In this regard, Tokelau is one of the participating members of the FAO-UNDP-Global Environment Fund project entitled, "Implementation of global and regional oceanic fisheries conventions and related instruments in the Pacific small island developing States". This project is founded on national capacity-building and on leveraging ideas centred on sustainability and the application of precautionary, ecosystem-based approaches into the well-established structures of the regional fisheries policy dialogue and research networks supported by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

25. The engagement of Tokelau in regional management decision-making is critical, given the nature of highly migratory tuna resources in the Pacific, which require the implementation of effective conservation and management measures throughout the range of their distribution. According to FAO, not having Tokelau fully engaged and supporting the implementation of robust conservation and management measures in the region would provide the opportunity for third countries/third parties to relocate their fleets to Tokelau and undermine the actions taken by adjacent countries in support of much needed conservation and management measures and could jeopardize the sustainability of tuna resources and associated species.

Participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean in important regional fisheries and aquaculture-related activities in 2014

26. Montserrat participated in the FAO/Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission Workshop on implementing the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, held in Port of Spain from 24 to 28 March 2014. The workshop focused on the implementation of the Agreement with regard to law and policy, institutional and capacity

[4] "Explanatory note on the Tokelau arrangement", available from www.ffa.int/system/files/WCPFC11-2014-DP05b%20Tokelau%20Arrangement%20Explanatory_Note.pdf.

development, and operations. The workshop informed participants about unreported and unregulated fishing in the Caribbean region, including its impacts on resources and economic consequences. It considered port State measures in the global context, together with the use of port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate unreported and unregulated fishing.

27. Montserrat participated in the fifteenth session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, held in Port of Spain from 26 to 28 March 2014. The Commission adopted four recommendations on regional fisheries management in respect of: spawning aggregations of groupers and snappers; the use of fish aggregating devices; the management and conservation of Queen Conch; and the strengthening of fisheries management planning. The Commission also adopted five resolutions on: unreported and unregulated fishing; Lionfish; the implementation of voluntary guidelines on small-scale fisheries and tenure, the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on flag State performance and the implementation of the strategic action programme for the Caribbean large marine ecosystem.[5]

28. Bermuda participated in the first meeting of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission Working Group on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries, held in Christ Church, Barbados, from 30 September to 2 October 2014. The meeting took the form of a technical workshop on bottom fisheries in the high seas areas of the Western Central Atlantic. The meeting brought together 31 fisheries experts from 17 member States of the Commission and four institutions. The Working Group compiled available information on the high seas fisheries in the Commission area and noted that deep-sea fisheries in the high seas had been and were occurring, and that they were likely to increase in the future. The Working Group also noted the international instruments and recommendations related to protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas of the Commission area. The Working Group proposed a total of five potential vulnerable marine ecosystems within the Commission area.

29. Anguilla attended the workshop on the stock assessment and management of the Caribbean spiny lobster in the Western Central Atlantic, held in Panama City, from 21 to 23 October 2014. The Working Group welcomed the information presented and noted the overall improvement in data collection and management. It noted that the adoption and implementation of management measures seem to have resulted in an improvement of the state of the stocks of Caribbean spiny lobster compared with 2006. The Working Group recognized the usefulness of designing technical management measures and expressed satisfaction on the level of agreement that was reached among the group. The Working Group recommended that technical management measures be embedded in a broad management plan that would address ecological, social and institutional issues, to be developed with the involvement of all members of the Commission for adoption at its seventeenth session.

30. The Turks and Caicos Islands participated in the second meeting of the Working Group on Queen Conch, held in Panama City from 18 to 20 November 2014 and organized by the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism. The meeting followed up on decisions by the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and a recommendation from the fifteenth session of the Commission. The

[5] The report of the fifteenth session of the Commission is available from http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3790t.pdf.

meeting reviewed a draft regional management and conservation plan for Queen Conch, with 26 potential fisheries management measures, and determined which measures would contribute most to the sustainability of the stocks and livelihoods of those involved in Queen Conch fisheries in the region. The meeting reached expert agreement on the use of regional harmonized conversion factors for the various degrees of processing of conch meat and on a format for assessments of non-detriment findings. The meeting of the Working Group was attended by 55 fisheries and CITES authority delegates from 22 countries and Territories. The meeting was facilitated by the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, CITES and FAO.

31. Bermuda and Montserrat participated in the workshop on marine protected areas as a tool for responsible fisheries and sustainable livelihoods in the Caribbean, which was held in Rockley, Christ Church, Barbados, from 6 to 8 November 2014, in conjunction with the 67th Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. The workshop generated a number of conclusions and recommendations for the future planning and management of marine protected areas in the region.

Regional activities of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission with Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region in 2015 and 2016

32. Bermuda participated in the second Regional Workshop on Caribbean Billfish Management and Conservation of the Working Group on Recreational Fisheries, held in Panama City from 9 to 11 November 2015. A total of 53 experts from 19 Caribbean countries and Territories as well as from different organizations and projects attended the workshop. The preliminary findings of six field and desk studies were presented and discussed on the status of Caribbean billfish stocks and fisheries, the value of billfish recreational and commercial fisheries, on rights-based approaches in recreational and commercial fisheries, the national legal frameworks for fisheries in the Caribbean and on the application of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission *Manual on Assessment of the Economic Impact of Recreational Fisheries: Martinique and the Bahamas*.[6]

33. Montserrat participated in the second Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission Strategic Reorientation Workshop, held in Port of Spain on 1 and 2 December 2015. The workshop was attended by 48 participants from 25 member countries as well as partner organizations, international experts and FAO. The workshop discussed the preliminary outcomes of an independent cost-benefit assessment of the three options for the strategic reorientation of the Commission, namely that:

(a) The Commission should remain a regional-level fisheries advisory commission, under article VI of the FAO constitution;

(b) The Commission should become a regional fisheries management organization, under article XIV of the FAO constitution, with a mandate to make legally binding decisions;

(c) The Commission should become a regional fisheries management organization independent of FAO (an intergovernmental organization by itself), with a mandate to make legally binding decisions.

34. Montserrat participated in the sixteenth session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, held in Guadeloupe from 20 to 24 June 2016. The session was attended by 28 members of the Commission. Observers from four regional fishery bodies and four intergovernmental organizations also participated. The Commission

[6] FAO, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1128, 2016.

adopted five recommendations on regional fisheries management with regard to: (a) the regional plan for the management and conservation of Queen Conch, (b) the management and conservation of spiny lobster; (c) the subregional fisheries management plan for flying fish; (d) the management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas; and (e) the management of shrimp and groundfish resources. The Commission also adopted two resolutions on: (a) sea cucumber fisheries management and aquaculture; and (b) marine protected areas as a fisheries management tool in the Caribbean. The Commission agreed to launch a process to establish a regional fisheries management organization in the Commission's area of competence, being the Western Central Atlantic (area 31) and the northern part of the South West Atlantic (area 41) and to collaborate in fisheries management and conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction of straddling stocks, deep sea fish stocks and highly migratory species that are not under the mandate of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission discussed the intersessional activities of the working groups and regional collaboration in addressing illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and approved the programme of work for 2016-2017.

35. The Turks and Caicos Islands participated in the regional workshop on Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission-Fisheries Resources Monitoring System data, held in Barbados from 19 to 21 January 2016 and attended by 13 countries (mostly Caribbean island States), two overseas Territories of the European Union and four regional organizations. The workshop was a cornerstone of the action on the initiative entitled "Strengthening national data collection and regional data sharing through the Fishery Inventory Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) to support priority regional fishery management plans in the WECAFC area", funded by the European Union Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

C. International Monetary Fund

36. The engagement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the dependent Territories of a member constitutes part of a broader engagement with the member. Separate assessments of the issues specific to the dependent Territories are not common. For this reason, IMF has only limited information to share. A report entitled "Turks and Caicos, financial system stability assessment",[7] issued in October 2015, can be retrieved from the IMF website.

D. International Telecommunication Union

37. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) indicated that 3 of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories organized Girls in ICT Day events, as follows: the events organized in 2016 in Bermuda and the United States Virgin Islands are reported on the International Girls in ICT portal[8] under the United Kingdom and the United States, respectively, whereas the event organized in Montserrat in 2014 is reported separately.[9] The events in Bermuda and Montserrat were organized by the respective Territorial Governments, while the event in the United States Virgin Islands was organized by the Young Women's Christian Association. ITU notes that

[7] Available from www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43337.0.

[8] See www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/Girls-in-ICT-Day-events.aspx.

[9] See www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/events/2014/Americas/Montserrat-2014.aspx.

in trying to respect the ITU membership, these activities are reported under the governing country where this information is readily available. ITU also notes that while it does not have any direct involvement in these events, the ITU support is limited to publishing information on these activities and sharing resources.

E. Pacific Islands Forum

38. The Pacific Islands Forum is an international organization committed to pursuing regional cooperation and integration among its members. The organization is legally constituted by a treaty (the Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum), and it is served by a secretariat, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, based in Suva. The Forum is formally recognized as an observer to the United Nations, and this is reciprocated with the United Nations having observer status to the annual Leaders' meeting of the Forum. The Forum also notes that 5 of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories have relationships with the Forum, specifically American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau (see para. 41 below).

Pacific Islands Forum and the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Pacific

39. According to the Forum, since its foundation, the Pacific Islands Forum has advocated the right of colonies and Territories in the Pacific to self-determination. The Forum remains ready to support the Territories on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific, if requested, with the realization of aspirations for self-determination and independence, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the relevant populations. The Forum recognizes that the process of decolonization is not only complex and multidimensional, but it must also be inclusive and reflective of the will of the majority of the population. It is also important that any decision reached by the majority of the population be respected, in full, by the administering power.

40. According to the Forum, 5 of the 17 Territories on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories due for decolonization are in the Pacific. All five have some form of official status with the Pacific Islands Forum, as follows:

(a) French Polynesia and New Caledonia, which were previously recognized (in 2006) as associate members of the Forum, have recently been accepted as full members. This decision was made by the Forum Leaders at the Leaders' meeting, held from 7to 10 September 2016 in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia);

(b) Tokelau has been recognized as an associate member of the Forum since 2014;

(c) American Samoa and Guam have been recognized as observers to the Forum since 2011.

41. American Samoa and Guam are invited to attend official meetings of the Forum in their capacity as observers, while Tokelau, French Polynesia and New Caledonia attend and participate in meetings as associate member and members, respectively. The Forum's level of engagement with each Non-Self-Governing Territory is informed by its official status within the Forum.

42. According to the Forum, its Leaders have maintained a close interest in political developments in New Caledonia since 1990, with the establishment of the Forum Ministerial Committee to New Caledonia. The Ministerial Committee was mandated to monitor events within New Caledonia as it moves towards an act of self- determination and to ensure that the Forum would be able to monitor the progress of the implementation of the Matignon Accords of 1988 (and its successor,

the Nouméa Accord, signed in 1998). Since 1991, the Ministerial Committee has undertaken eight visits to New Caledonia (1991, 1993, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2013).

43. In July 2015, a ministerial committee of the Pacific Islands Forum undertook a mission to French Polynesia to assess its eligibility to become a full member of the Forum, following a written request from the President of French Polynesia, Edouard Fritch.

F. United Nations Children's Fund

Latin America and the Caribbean

44. UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean is supporting activities in the following Non-Self-Governing Territories through the Eastern Caribbean multi-country programme: Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. In 2016, UNICEF continued its work with these Territories, contributing to the realization of children's rights by fostering an enabling and protective environment. UNICEF programmes are fully aligned with the existing policy frameworks in both the Territories and the regional bodies such as CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

45. As part of these efforts, UNICEF, with funding from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, works closely with the respective Governments in four of the British Territories. These programmes are designed to contribute to the progressive achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to respond to the realities of these Territories being small islands. The United Nations system, including UNICEF, pursued the preparation of a United Nations multi-country sustainable development framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking countries and Territories of the Caribbean, aimed at pursuing tangible deliverables for each during the period from 2017 to 2021.

46. UNICEF supported enhancing the availability of information on the situation of children by preparing, validating and disseminating situation analysis documents for Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The findings of these situation analysis documents will allow Governments to address remaining challenges for children by implementing and improving child-targeted policies and programmes, with an equity focus.

47. UNICEF continued the analysis of legislation on child protection. The capacity of authorities was strengthened to enhance, implement and enforce such legislation. Also, several public sensitization campaigns were implemented, targeting specific groups (professional and linguistic) in the Territories on issues related to child abuse.

48. Efforts were made in the implementation of a child and gender-sensitive budget toolkit and analysis. Draft final reports for the Budget Investment and Fiscal Space Study on Social Protection Floor for both Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands were presented to government stakeholders to help support the preparation of the budgets for 2017.

Africa region/Western Sahara

49. United Nations assistance to refugees from Western Sahara is a key component of a multi-donor, multifaceted humanitarian relief effort. According to UNICEF, Saharan refugees living in the five refugee camps located in Tindouf, Algeria, face very severe living conditions and are wholly dependent on humanitarian assistance. In 2016, as part of the coordinated emergency response to the catastrophic floods of

October 2015, UNICEF Algeria, through partnership agreements with the two non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Triangle and the Comitato Internationale per lo Suiluppo dei Popoli (CISP), performed the rehabilitation and reconstruction of 15 schools and kindergartens, which allowed 7,056 children to reintegrate into school. In doing so, the organization applied a "Building back better" approach for safer buildings and a more sustainable education system. In August 2016, extreme weather conditions occurred again, when a strong storm with heavy rains hit the camp of Laayoun, causing damage to other education buildings. As chair of the emergency education group, UNICEF coordinated immediate measures, such as the provision of four school tents, and an emergency consolidation of the damaged building allowed 8,109 children to go back to school.

50. Other support provided to Saharan refugee children living in camps in Tindouf in 2016 revolved around the four main axes of immunization, education, youth empowerment and child protection. UNICEF remained the primary vaccine provider, allowing the immunization of more than 22,000 children and pregnant women. UNICEF provided technical assistance to further strengthen the immunization system in place, through the training of vaccinators on the application of a new vaccination calendar. UNICEF provided school supplies to 32,500 primary school children. With regard to protection, UNICEF partnered with the NGO Handicap International to carry out a survey analysing access to the service bottlenecks faced by children with disabilities. In 2016, as part of the coordinated effort to improve livelihoods and empower youth, UNICEF partnered with the NGO CISP and supported 35 Saharan refugee youth in establishing 11 innovative, income-generating projects using a coaching approach.

51. The UNICEF emergency response and humanitarian assistance to date is supported by contributions from the Governments of Italy and the United States, which complement its own emergency funds.

Asia and the Pacific

52. The UNICEF Pacific office, based in Fiji, covers 14 Pacific island countries and Territories, including Tokelau. The office works with partners to provide better outcomes for Pacific children and women, as reflected in improved policies and legislation, greater access to quality social services and more accurate data for planning and monitoring. The multi-country programme includes: early childhood development; education; health, including HIV and AIDS; nutrition; water and sanitation; child protection; rights advocacy; behaviour change communication; and the collection and analysis of data. UNICEF facilitates the participation of Tokelau in regional meetings related to those programme areas.

53. UNICEF works closely with a large number of partners, including Governments (e.g., those of Australia, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States), the European Union and other multilateral organizations and a network of NGOs. This work aims to support rights-based and evidence-informed development programming and monitoring in all Pacific island countries and Territories.

54. UNICEF supports the Expanded Programme on Immunization for all Pacific island countries and Territories. UNICEF is the co-secretariat of the Pacific immunization programme, which brings together key partners to review immunization outcomes and progress. During the reporting period, UNICEF worked closely with the World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Australian Aid, New Zealand Aid and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

55. Tokelau is a member of the UNICEF Vaccine Independence Initiative, to which the Fund provides technical support for the forecasting and procurement of vaccines and immunization supplies, supported by a credit line for each participating country. UNICEF also provided technical assistance for the certification of cessation of trivalent oral polio vaccine usage in April 2016. Moreover, UNICEF has provided inactive polio vaccines available for 2016 and 2017. UNICEF is seeking a funding possibility with Rotary Australia to support the introduction of three new vaccines in Tokelau, namely: Rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine and human papilloma virus vaccine. UNICEF continues to work with the Secretariat of Pacific Community, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other Pacific partners to support a framework that facilitates adequate prevention and care to those living with HIV and AIDS in the context of a low-prevalence environment. UNICEF is also providing technical support to build capacity in the coordination of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) emergency cluster in Tokelau. As part of the Fund's efforts to monitor the situation of children and women, a full situation analysis of children in the Pacific is undergoing finalization. The situation analysis will help to shape UNICEF support for the Territory under the Multi-Country Programme for 2018-2022. UNICEF continued efforts to increase country capacity to collect, analyse and utilize information through ongoing collaboration with the statistics division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

G. United Nations Development Programme

56. The activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) related to the Territories under the purview of the Special Committee on Decolonization are set out below.

Asia and the Pacific

Tokelau

57. UNDP currently supports Tokelau through the Tokelau Energy Sector Support project, approved in May 2014 with the target for resources assignment from the core (TRAC). The project focuses on updating the national energy plan and implementing a demand-side energy efficiency project to reduce energy consumption on all three atolls. UNDP also supports Tokelau with another project funded by TRAC on governance aimed at improving service delivery at the village level on the three atolls. The Tokelau Good Governance Initiation Plan Phase project was implemented in 2015-2016 to (a) provide training in good governance for the Taupulega (village authorities) and communities in Tokelau; and (b) formulate a basic social services delivery project. This will be in line with the development and implementation of the Quality of Life Plan of Tokelau. A full-scale project document has been prepared and is under review by the Government.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Anguilla and British Virgin Islands

58. Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands (along with Montserrat), have also benefited from the subregional initiatives and processes (e.g., the Regional Strategy for Development of Statistics and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Youth Strategy), led by the OECS Commission and supported by UNDP. The Programme does not have regular resources allocated to Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands and no resources have been mobilized specifically for these Territories. However, they have benefited from subregional initiatives and

processes, as mentioned above. UNDP was approached by Anguilla to support the development of its long-term national sustainable development plan. UNDP serves as a member of the Steering Committee and will make substantive contributions to finalize the plan.

Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and Bermuda

59. There are no activities currently, but in the past UNDP had a country programme approved for the Turks and Caicos Islands (2004-2008). The areas of support were: (a) governance and capacity-building; and (b) the development of small-scale enterprises for income and employment generation.

Montserrat

60. UNDP has supported environmental remediation and protection. The volcanic activities that commenced in 1995 have had devastating impacts on the island's economy, which has been stagnating in recent years. In this context, the tourism industry, one of the sectors hardest hit by the volcano eruptions, is considered a national priority in the Sustainable Development Plan for 2008-2020. Garibaldi Hill, with its breathtaking view of the volcano and the ruins of the old capital Plymouth, has the potential of becoming a driver of the Montserratian economy. With a view to assisting Montserrat to develop this area as a tourism hotspot in a sustainable and climate-resilient manner, the project will: (a) rehabilitate and upgrade the access road to the hill, integrating infrastructure design for flood mitigation; and (b) construct a viewing platform and install signage for visitors in the hilltop area to improve the tourist experience. The project provided employment opportunities to the local population in a gender-equitable manner. UNDP also organized a post-disaster needs assessment workshop to build knowledge and expertise within various sectors.

H. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

61. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) indicated that the only one of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories covered by UNIDO was Montserrat. Despite the good cooperation of UNIDO with the Caribbean, for example, through the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency or the country programme for Cuba, the Organization is not developing any major operations in Montserrat, although it is considered in all the UNIDO regional events in Latin America and the Caribbean.

I. Universal Postal Union

62. The Universal Postal Union (UPU), as an intergovernmental organization of a technical character and specialized agency of the United Nations, is currently composed of 192 member countries, comprising 190 sovereign States. The other members include the "Overseas Territories for whose international relations the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is responsible", to which earlier Congresses had granted the separate status of member countries. In that regard, UPU notes that several of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under the purview of the Special Committee form part of the aforementioned United Kingdom Overseas Territories.

63. Other Territories falling under the situation described in article 23 of the UPU Constitution ("Application of the Acts of the Union to territories for whose international relations a member country is responsible") concern the member

country United States of America, which is responsible for American Samoa, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands. The same situation applies for France, with regard to French Polynesia and New Caledonia, and for New Zealand, with regard to Tokelau.

64. For all such Territories, the relevant provisions of the Acts of UPU apply in full, particularly with regard to the operation and regulation of international postal services and due fulfilment of the obligations arising from the Acts of UPU. Some of these Territories also benefit from technical cooperation and other UPU projects (as was the case for Gibraltar in August 2016).

65. Moreover, a number of Territories have their own designated operators (i.e., the governmental or non-governmental entities officially designated by the member country to operate international postal services and to fulfil the related obligations arising out of the Acts of UPU on their territory), such as Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[*] Gibraltar, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Saint Helena and the Turks and Caicos Islands. UPU also informs that it does not have activities in Western Sahara.

J. World Health Organization

Region of the Americas

66. In the region of the Americas, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) provides technical cooperation through its offices in:

(a) The Bahamas (to the Turks and Caicos Islands);

(b) The Office of Eastern Caribbean Countries (serving Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat);

(c) Jamaica (serving Bermuda and the Cayman Islands).

67. During 2016, the main technical support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the region of the Americas focused on the following issues:

- Reform of the financing of health systems
- Prevention and management of Zika virus and possible complications
- Building and strengthening core capacities in accordance with the requirement of the International Health Regulations
- Validation of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Strengthening the capacity to prevent and control non-communicable diseases
- Planning and organization of a survey on non-communicable diseases, using the STEPwise approach[**]

The PAHO/WHO Multi-country Strategy with the United Kingdom Overseas Territories in the Caribbean 2016-2022 was completed during the reporting period (July 2016).

[**] The WHO STEPwise approach to surveillance is a standardized method for collecting, analysing and disseminating data in WHO member States. For more information, see: www.who.int/chp/steps/en/.

Anguilla

68. During the reporting period, PAHO/WHO provided technical cooperation to support the reform of health system financing and the development of strengthening mechanisms for health systems, taking into account the importance of primary health care. PAHO/WHO supported the assessment of validation of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Another important support has been in the areas of Zika prevention and management. This included the improvement in resource capacities for vector control, the strengthening of the health systems for the management of complications of Zika and an education, information and communication campaign targeted at the citizens of Anguilla on vector control. PAHO/WHO also supported the implementation of the STEPS survey to provide the Government with an updated picture of the non-communicable diseases profile of the Territory and the risk factors for non-communicable diseases.

British Virgin Islands

69. During the reporting period, PAHO/WHO provided technical cooperation to support the reform of health systems financing and the development of an updated profile of the human resources for health required to provide universal health coverage. PAHO/WHO supported the assessment of the validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Another important area of support has been in the prevention and management of Zika. This included the improvement in resource capacities for vector control, the strengthening of the health systems for the management of complications of Zika and an education, information and communication campaign targeted at the citizens of British Virgin Islands on vector control. PAHO/WHO also supported the authorities in the Territory to strengthen the capacities to reach the core capacities for the International Health Regulations. This included strengthening port health systems and emergency preparedness.

Bermuda

70. In 2016, PAHO/WHO supported the assessment of the validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The completion of phase I of the Global Action Plan III for polio containment, with an emphasis on laboratory containment of wild Sabin polio type 2, and the completion of documentation of the national sustainability of the elimination of measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome were also achieved. PAHO also supported the tobacco control regulations implemented in July 2016. The implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative was enhanced and the development of the Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy and the Breastfeeding Policy supported. For the first time, Bermuda also procured medicines through the PAHO Strategic Fund. The health workforce assessment was initiated and a stakeholders' meeting held. Technical assistance was provided and capacity-building for quality and safety in radiology health was also supported. The evaluation of the zoonosis surveillance system was also completed.

Cayman Islands

71. During the reporting period, PAHO/WHO supported the assessment of the validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The follow-up and final assessment was completed beginning of 2017. The completion of phase I of the Global Action Plan III for polio containment, with an emphasis on laboratory containment of wild Sabin polio type 2 and the documentation of the national sustainability of the elimination of measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome were also achieved. The draft mental health policy was developed and tobacco control regulations have been implemented. During 2016, an update of the

framework for the monitoring of dumpsites was done. The training of staff in the International Classification of Diseases was supported by PAHO/WHO, in collaboration with the Caribbean Public Health Agency. The evaluation of the country's zoonosis surveillance system, the updating of the All Hazard Emergency Plan and the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Multi-country Strategy 2016-2022 were all successfully completed.

Montserrat

72. During the reporting period, PAHO/WHO provided technical cooperation to support the reform in health systems financing and the development of human resources for the health profile and worked with the Ministry of Health for the development of the new hospital to be commissioned in the coming year. PAHO supported the assessment of the validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Another important area of support has been in the prevention and management of Zika. This included the improvement in resource capacities for vector control through the purchase of equipment and chemicals to enable them to work more effectively. An education, information and communication campaign targeted the citizens of Montserrat on vector control, with the involvement of faith- and community-based organizations. During 2016, work also started on the planning of a survey using the STEPwise approach to non-communicable diseases, expected to be rolled out in 2017. This will provide the Government with an updated picture of the non-communicable diseases profile and the risk factors that need to be targeted for the prevention of such diseases.

Turks and Caicos Islands

73. Specific activities of technical cooperation conducted by PAHO/WHO with the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2016 included support for the following:

- The development of the Strategic Health Plan Vision 2020
- The development of the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and Health Promotion in the Turks And Caicos Islands 2015-2020 (approved in January 2016)
- Development of the Primary Health Care Renewal Strategy
- Elaboration of a strategic plan on national monitoring and evaluation
- Support in the area of nutrition, including the National Nutritional Policy and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative
- Development of a national policy on blood banks
- Advancing the Health in All Policy Agenda
- Enactment of the Mental Health Ordinance of 2016

Western Pacific Region

74. During 2016, the main technical support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the WHO Western Pacific region focused on the following issues:

- Strengthening capacities to prevent and control non-communicable diseases
- Strengthening surveillance capacities
- Antimicrobial resistance

Technical cooperation has been provided through the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, the WHO Representative Office for the South Pacific and the Samoa country office.

Guam

75. During 2016, WHO continued to provide technical support to the implementation of the Salt Reduction Action Plan, including technical support for social marketing campaigns and work with caterers. WHO has also contributed to capacity-building for health promotion leadership through a workshop for staff of the Ministry of Health from Guam and other areas.

French Polynesia

76. WHO provides continuing support to address the issue of non-communicable diseases. WHO has provided technical assistance to undertake a global school-based student health survey to assess various health indicators and risk factors in adolescents. Also, participants from French Polynesia attended the Pacific regional meetings on the WHO package of essential non-communicable disease interventions in primary health care (PEN) and on tobacco. This has helped the participants to increase their linkages to other Pacific island countries and across programmes.

Pitcairn and French Polynesia

77. WHO has been providing continued support in managing and coordinating the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System, the early warning epidemic alert system in all Pacific island countries and Territories, including Pitcairn and French Polynesia.

American Samoa

78. WHO facilitated close cooperation between the Department of Health of American Samoa and the Ministry of Health of Samoa, encouraging the sharing of lessons and experience learned from the PEN Fa'a Samoa initiative to be utilized in the implementation of similar initiatives by American Samoa. The main experience of PEN Fa'a Samoa consists of involving communities in early detection of the risk factors for non-communicable diseases and in associated health education initiatives. Another example of collaboration is the support that WHO has been providing to American Samoa to improve and measure the implementation of public health actions to reduce the risk factors for non-communicable diseases (including obesity), as outlined in "Rowing together for healthy American Samoa: a strategic action plan for non-communicable disease prevention and control (2013-2018)". In 2015, WHO developed a methodology for a survey on non-communicable diseases using the STEPwise approach (surveillance system), and in 2016 and 2017, WHO is building a partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collaborate and partner in delivering the survey.

79. WHO also supports bilateral health summits between American Samoa and Samoa to strengthen collaboration and partnerships in addressing emerging health challenges. The annual policy dialogue brought together partners from across the health sector in both countries. Hosted by American Samoa in 2016, the Summit was attended by the top health management of both countries.

80. In 2016, WHO supported the work on antimicrobial resistance in several Pacific islands. This experience will be utilized in American Samoa in 2017. The focus will be on conducting a country situational analysis on antimicrobial resistance, a perception survey to inform public awareness messages, and on celebrating World Antibiotic Awareness Week.